

The Department of Housing and Community Development

Report to the California Building Standards Commission 7-05

HCD, along with the other proposing state agencies, is currently participating in both the Structural and General building code workgroups established by the Commission staff. These workgroups have met several times over the past few months with the goal of coordinating amendments and identifying problems the agencies might face when developing their individual rulemaking packages for the next California Building Code. In addition to identifying problem areas, these workgroups are also developing suggested amendment language and the rationale for the ISOR that will help resolve conflicts and ensure compliance with the 9-Point criteria.

On June 24, 2005, the ICC and the Department of Housing and Community Development executed an Internal Use License agreement allowing HCD to develop its express terms using copyrighted materials owned by the ICC. This agreement allows HCD to publish its express terms along with the necessary portions of the licensed materials being proposed for amendment in both electronic format, via our web site, and in hard copy for review by the public.

The ICC has provided Department staff with multiple copies of I-Code documents to assist us in developing our proposed rulemaking. In addition to hard copies of these documents, the ICC has provided electronic copies of many of these documents along with software tools useful in developing our proposed rulemaking.

To date, our program staff members have made significant progress with drafting the express terms for chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the next California Building Code. Historically, the majority of the necessary state amendments proposed by HCD to the base building code are contained in chapters 1 through 4 and Chapter 11-A. During a recent General Design Workgroup meeting Executive Director Nishimura informed the attendees that Chapter 1 may be completely reworked and possibly moved into another part of Title 24; therefore, we have not pursued any updating of Chapter 1 to date.

In developing our proposed rulemaking, staff identifies and reviews each existing amendment contained in the current 2001 CBC as well as the package that would have been proposed for the adoption of the 2000 IBC into the CBC, and analyzes the language for compliance with the 9-Point Criteria. Where the Department finds there is no longer a need for the amendment, it is proposed to be eliminated.

Based on the Department's current level of progress we anticipate being able to take a proposed draft of our express terms to a focus group for, public input, in September. However, the Department's ability to hold the focus group meeting in September will depend on some outside factors such as: the completion of necessary draft structural amendments being worked on by the Structural Workgroup; unforeseen workloads; and staff resources.

We anticipate losing a key member of our program staff shortly. Even though we will be able to backfill this position, the person assuming the duties of a State Housing Law District Representative II will require extensive training before they are able to work at a level necessary to complete this type of rulemaking package. We are currently on target to have a rulemaking package ready to submit to the Building Standards Commission in April 2006 as currently established by the Executive Director.